FD-204 (Rev. 3-3-59)

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Commission No. 956

Copy to:

Report of: JOHN JAMES O'FLAHERTY
Date: 5/8/64
Office: New York, New York
Field Office File #: 105-38431
Bureau File #: 105-82555
Title: LEE HARVEY OSWALD

Character: INTERNAL SECURITY - R - CUBA

Synopsis:

Subject's probable itinerary and expenditures while in NYC, 6/13-14/62, ascertained and set forth. BARRY GRAY, NYC Radio Commentator, contacted re statements made on his radio program and results set forth. Results of interview with SERGE FLIEGERS, Chief European Correspondent of Hearst Newspapers, re allegation that OSWALD, while in Soviet Union, trained as intelligence agent and received assignment to assassinate President KENNEDY, set forth herein. Interviews with STANLEY ROSS, Dr. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING and EVIDIO PEREIRA ACOSTA re JACK RUBY's alleged presence in Cuba, set forth. Investigation concerning PASCUAL ENRIQUE RUEDOLO GONGORA set forth and PETER CASSISI, former Marine Corps associate of subject's, interviewed and results contained herein.

-P-

DETAILS:

The following investigation was conducted in an effort to obtain information concerning subject's expenditures during the period June 13-14, 1962, while he was in New York City:

Commission Exhibit No. 1444

This document contains neither recommendations nor conclusions of the FBI. It is the property of the FBI and is loaned to your agency; it and its contents are not to be distributed outside your agency.

240

On April 8, 1964, JAMES M. JOSOFF, Public Relations Director, Travelers Aid Society, 204 East 39th Street, New York, advised that his records indicate that OSWALD and his family were met at the pier in Hoboken, New Jersey, on June 13, 1962, by a representative from their office and transported to the Port Authority Terminal at 41st Street and 8th Avenue, New York City. He stated that this transportation was via Travelers company limousine and was free of charge. He stated their limousine service only operates between the Port Authority terminals and the piers and that is the reason why OSWALD was not taken directly to the office of the New York City Department of Welfare. He advised that the record further indicates that their representative accompanied OSWALD and his family from the Port Authority Terminal to the office of Special Services, New York City Department of Welfare, 42 Franklin Street, New York City, and that they travelled via taxicab. He commented that inasmuch as OSWALD's file does not contain a request for reimbursement for this taxi fare, he would assume that OSWALD paid for the fare.

Mr. JOSOFF remarked that it would appear from the record that OSWALD and his family stayed at the Times Square Motor Hotel, 8th Avenue and 43rd Street, New York City. He also remarked that since OSWALD did have some money in his possession, any meals consumed during the period that he was in the company of the Travelers representative, OSWALD would have paid for himself.

In connection with the taxi fare from the Port Authority Terminal to the Department of Welfare, MAX WEISS, President of the Broad Street Taxi Owners Association, Inc., 44 Whitehall Street, New York, advised, on April 10, 1964, that the fare for this trip would have been approximately $1.50.

On April 8, 1964, Miss DOROTHY DOWNING, Supervisor, Special Investigations, New York City Department of Welfare, advised that since their files do not reflect any expenditures by the department on behalf of OSWALD and his family, it can be assumed that any transportation to and from the

office of the Department of Welfare and any meals consumed during the period of OSWALD's association with the department, were paid for by OSWALD himself.

She stated that the file does contain a request from a Department of Welfare worker for reimbursement for himself for $3.50 spent on transportation to and from Idlewild Airport, Queens, New York, aboard a Carey bus. She commented that it would appear that OSWALD, his family, and the Welfare worker proceeded to Idlewild aboard a Carey bus and that OSWALD paid his own fare.

Miss DOWNING stated that OSWALD left the Special Services branch office of the Department of Welfare, 42 Franklin Street, registered at a Times Square Hotel, and subsequently returned to the Special Services office on June 14, 1962, at which time he was accompanied to the Western Union office, 428 Broadway, which is only a few blocks from the Special Services office, where he obtained the $200 sent by his brother from Texas.

In connection with the above itinerary, Miss DOWNING was unable to furnish any information concerning expenditures by OSWALD.

Although OSWALD's means of transportation from Special Services office, 42 Franklin Street, to his hotel at 8th Avenue and 43rd Street, on June 13, 1962, and his return trip to 42 Franklin Street on the following day are unknown, it is to be noted that if he, his wife, and their four-month infant child took a taxicab, the approximate fare each way would have been $1.50. This estimate was furnished on April 10, 1964, by MAX WEISS, heretofore mentioned. As indicated above, the Western Union office where OSWALD received his $200 is within walking distance from the Special Services office and in all probability, no transportation expenses were incurred in connection with this travel.

It appears from the Welfare file that OSWALD left the Western Union office and proceeded to the West Side Air Terminal to obtain his airplane tickets. Since there is

no information available regarding his means of transportation, it can only be assumed that if he travelled via taxi, the fare would have been $1.50, according to Mr. WEISS.

The West Side Air Terminal is located at 10th Avenue and 42nd Street, and is within walking distance to the Times Square Hotel, 8th Avenue and 43rd Street, and in all probability OSWALD incurred no expense in connection with this travel.

On April 9, 1964, ETHEL ZILLIKEN, Chief Ticket Agent, Delta Airlines, West Side Air Terminal, advised that their files reflect that on June 14, 1962, OSWALD purchased two tickets totalling $183.04 or $91.52 for each ticket. She stated that there is no charge for an infant. She commented that OSWALD's flight number was 821, and was scheduled to land at Love Field, Dallas, Texas.

On April 9, 1964, JOHN HUBER, JR., Manager, Times Square Motor Hotel, 8th Avenue and 43rd Street, New York City, advised that their files reflect that L. OSWALD registered at their hotel on June 13, 1962, and checked out on June 14, 1962. He stated that OSWALD's bill, totalling $15.21, included $10.00 for the room, $.50 tax and $4.71 for telephone calls. He stated that the telephone toll cards are destroyed after six months and the only information available regarding these calls is that one long-distance call amounting to $2.31 was placed on June 13, 1962, and one long distance call amounting to $2.20 and one local call amounting to $.20, were placed on June 14, 1962.

On April 10, 1964, EDWARD L. BRAUNE, Security Supervisor, New York City Telephone Company, advised that their records pertaining to the period June, 1962, have been destroyed and there is no information available concerning these records.

The Welfare file indicates that OSWALD left his hotel on June 14, 1962, and proceeded to the East Side Airlines (ESAL), First Avenue and 38th Street, New York City, via taxi. In connection with this taxi transportation,

Mr. WEISS, previously mentioned, estimated that this fare would have been approximately $.65. The file revealed that OSWALD and his family apparently travelled from ESAL to Idlewild Airport via Carey bus.

On April 10, 1964, inquiry at Carey Transportation Company, ESAL, First Avenue and 38th Street, New York City, disclosed that the fare from ESAL to Idlewild Airport in June, 1962, would have been $1.75 per person with no charge for infants.

On February 6, 1964, BARRY GRAY, Radio Commentator, Station WMCA, New York City, made a statement during his radio program to the effect that a source, whom he did not wish to identify, but described as a responsible newsman, had informed GRAY that he, the source, was working on a story about LEE HARVEY OSWALD having been trained in Russia by a Soviet group which was anti-KHRUSHCHEV and pro-Chinese.

In connection with the above information, BARRY GRAY was interviewed by SAS JAMES O. INGRAM and JOHN JAMES O'FLAHERTY, on April 17, 1964, and furnished the following information:

GRAY advised that he recalls making the statement concerning subject, as referred to above, and stated that his source was SERGE FLIEGERS, European Correspondent for Hearst Publications, "New York Journal American" newspaper. He remarked that on January 16, 1964, while in conversation with FLIEGERS and one LESTER FELDSHON, described as a New York City realtor, and an acquaintance of FLIEGERS, a statement was made by FLIEGERS to the effect that there was an anti-KHRUSHCHEV, pro-Chinese group in the Soviet Union that was not in accord with KHRUSHCHEV's "coexistence" policy and that this group had trained OSWALD for the assassination of the President in an effort to bring KHRUSHCHEV into line. GRAY stated that he did not ask FLIEGERS where he had obtained this information nor did FLIEGERS state his source or sources; however, GRAY added that FLIEGERS made his statement in a categorical manner.

GRAY stated that he asked FLIEGERS what he was going to do with this information and FLIEGERS replied that he had prepared a story concerning this information but that the Hearst Publications would not allow it to be published.

GRAY voluntarily remarked that he personally gives more credence to the idea of a "plot" behind the assassination, as related by FLIEGERS, than to the idea that OSWALD planned and committed the act entirely by himself. He added, however, that he has no basis in fact whatsoever for his belief, but that it is merely his personal opinion.

On April 17, 1964, in an effort to locate the present address of correspondent SERGE FLIEGERS, SA FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN telephonically contacted DAN BRIGHAM, Trend Editor, "New York Journal American" newspaper, New York City. BRIGHAM advised that FLIEGERS' present address is care of Press Wireless, 8 Rue Edward VII, Paris 9, France. BRIGHAM added that it is the opinion of responsible individuals at the "New York Journal American" that FLIEGERS is "one of the biggest fakers in the business and anything he says has to be taken with a large grain of salt."

It is to be noted that information previously received by the New York Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) disclosed that on November 24, 1963, Radio Station WHN, New York City, carried a broadcast by SERGE FLIEGERS from Vienna, Austria. FLIEGERS, described as the Chief European Correspondent of Hearst Newspapers and a Broadcaster for Mutual Broadcasting System, interviewed a Mr. "X" concerning the OSWALD case. Mr. "X" expressed the suspicion that OSWALD had been trained as a Soviet intelligence agent during his visit to the Soviet Union and that the assassination of President KENNEDY may have been done on behalf of an anti-KHRUSHCHEV and pro-Peking faction in the Soviet Union.

In connection with this information, a confidential source abroad advised that on December 2, 1963, SERGE FLIEGERS stated that the information used in his broadcast, as referred to above, was received from an unofficial contact in Vienna who visits Prague from time to time and may have, in turn, received his information from a source in Prague. FLIEGERS stated that he often refers to his "intelligence sources" meaning unofficial contacts who furnish him with "intelligence information." He admitted that this is misleading since it infers that his sources are official intelligence sources rather than unofficial, but stated that he prefers to use this term since it is a vague, undefined description of his sources.

He stated that his source advised him that at the time OSWALD arrived in Russia, in 1959, he was probably questioned by the KGB in a routine manner. This questioning was probably done by a low-level KGB officer asking him for the reason for his coming to Russia, how long he intended to stay, et cetera. FLIEGERS' source reasoned that after this interview by the KGB, OSWALD was probably placed in contact with Soviet Military Intelligence in view of his Marine Corps background. FLIEGERS stated that this may not have been the official GRU but could be another Soviet military group. FLIEGERS' source then reasons that because of OSWALD's Marine Corps background, he probably would have been sent to a Soviet Military Intelligence sabotage school. This school could have been located in Moscow or since OSWALD is reported to have resided in Minsk for several years, it could have been located in that city.

FLIEGERS' source reasons that there is a strong military group in Russia which is anti-KHRUSHCHEV and thus pro-Peking. This group which would be strong Stalinists would naturally be opposed to the KHRUSHCHEV-KENNEDY relationship which had developed during the past two years. FLIEGERS' source also reasons that this military group would be interested in perpetuating the cold war in order to perpetuate their own military hierarchy. This source therefore reasons that this group may have ordered OSWALD to return to the United States and later instructed him to assassinate the President.

FLIEGERS was carefully questioned as to the nature of his sources and whether his sources had specific information or were speculating on the possibility of the above information. He repeated that his source is an unofficial contact in Vienna who visits Prague from time to time, that he may have received this information from another source in Prague who, in turn, may have contacts in Russia. He was pressed for the identity of his source and was asked if it would be possible for us to personally contact him. FLIEGERS stated that he doubts this strongly, but volunteered to recontact his source, if possible, to determine if he is willing to have his identity revealed. FLIEGERS stated that it is impossible for him to contact this source in Vienna by telephone, and, therefore, it may take some time to receive an answer.

On February 6, 1964, STANLEY ROSS, Editor of "El Tiempo", a New York City Spanish language weekly, appeared as a guest on the BARRY GRAY radio program, Station WMCA, New York City. During the course of the program, ROSS made a comment to the effect that he thought CASTRO was responsible for the death of President KENNEDY, directly or indirectly, or both. ROSS also remarked during the program that "El Tiempo" had published a story to the effect that JACK RUBY had been in Cuba twice since CASTRO came to power.

In connection with these statements, STANLEY ROSS was interviewed by SA FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN, on April 24, 1964, and furnished the following information:

He stated that he recalls the statements he made on the BARRY GRAY radio program and explained that his statement pertaining to FIDEL CASTRO's responsibility, directly or indirectly, for the assassination of President KENNEDY was prompted by the fact that on or about November 25, 1963, one PASCUAL ENRIQUE RUEDOLO GONGORA, a Cuban, was detained by Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), New York City, and through arrangements with the Spanish Consulate in New York City, was deported to Spain. He advised that when he had heard of GONGORA's detention, he contacted his friend, Mr. GARCIA BANON, the Spanish Consul, who confirmed that GONGORA had been detained by INS and at

247

the request of unidentified United States officials, Spain agreed to accept GONGORA for return to Cuba.

ROSS stated that he was informed by Mr. BANON that during an interview with GONGORA the latter stated that he was one of five or six persons sent to the United States to assassinate President KENNEDY at the direction of FIDEL CASTRO. GONGORA reportedly stated that CASTRO was fearful that President KENNEDY was trying to assassinate him and further stated that the United States had been involved in previous assassinations, such as the assassination of the husband and brother-in-law of Madame NHU of Vietnam.

ROSS advised that through his correspondent for Cuba, one ENRIQUE CERVANTES, he had ascertained that Cuba would not accept GONGORA from Spain because Cuba did not want to get involved in the investigation concerning the assassination of President KENNEDY.

ROSS further advised that relative to his statement that JACK RUBY had been in Cuba twice since CASTRO came to power, he explained that he received this information from one ROLANDO MASFERRER, who had obtained it from Dr. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING, who, in turn, obtained the information from a letter received from Cuba.

It is to be noted that Dr. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING had previously been mentioned by NATHANIEL WEYL, 4201 Ocean Boulevard, Delray Beach, Florida, when WEYL was interviewed by Special Agents of the Miami Office of the FBI, on March 13, 1964. WEYL was interviewed at that time relative to a statement he made to the effect that JACK RUBY had made a trip to Havana, Cuba, to deal with an individual named PRASKIN. WEYL stated that he had received this information from an old friend, CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING.

On April 20, 1964, Dr. CARLOS MARQUEZ STERLING, 355 East 72nd Street, New York City, New York, advised SA FRANCIS J. O'BRIEN that he is not the original source of the information pertaining to a visit by JACK RUBY to Havana, and his alleged meeting there with one PRASKIN.

STERLING stated that he [illegible] the letter which contained this information and he identified the original source of this information as EVIDIO PEREIRA. STERLING stated that PEREIRA formerly lived in Miami, Florida, and while he was residing there, STERLING instructed him to furnish this information to STERLING's friend, NATHANIEL WEYL.

STERLING remarked that PEREIRA is employed in a factory in Newark, New Jersey, but added that he does not know his address. He commented that PEREIRA is a member of the Free Cuba Patriotic Movement, of which he, STERLING, is the leader.

STERLING stated he would obtain PEREIRA's address and advise the FBI of same.

Subsequently, STERLING furnished PEREIRA's address and on May 4, 1964, EVIDIO PEREIRA ACOSTA, 3750 Broadway, New York City, was interviewed in the Spanish language and furnished the following information:

He advised that he has no firsthand knowledge concerning the statement that RUBY was in Cuba and in contact with one PRASKIN. He explained that this information was contained in a letter that he received from a friend in Cuba. He exhibited the letter which was written in the Spanish language and dated December 3, 1963, Havana, Cuba, and it was noted that the first paragraph reads as follows:

"Notify the Pentagon of this information: 'RUBY' _ murderer of OSWALD _ was in Havana a year ago. He is _ friend and client of an individual named PRASKIN _ owner or manager of a tourist shop situated in Prado E/. Animas y Trocadero in front of the Sevilla."

247B

He commented that he is unable to furnish any additional information regarding RUBY's alleged presence in Cuba and contact with one PRASKIN other than the information contained in the letter as received from his friend in Cuba.

In an effort to determine the present whereabouts of PASCUAL ENRIQUE RUEDOLO GONGORA, heretofore mentioned, and to interview him concerning his remarks, the following investigation was conducted:

On April 27, 1964, inquiry at INS, New York City, determined that GONGORA had been deported to Cuba via Spain on November 28, 1963, but subsequently had been unable to obtain travel documents to return to Cuba and was, therefore, returned to the United States at New York City, on February 21, 1964. INS advised that GONGORA was subsequently committed to Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital, New York City, and later transferred to Creedmoor State Hospital, Queens, New York, where he is presently confined.

On April 28, 1964, Mr. MOSES ANDRE WALKER, Superintendent, Bellevue Psychiatric Hospital, New York City, advised that hospital records disclose that GONGORA had been admitted to the hospital on March 11, 1964, for observation; that GONGORA's diagnosis was reflected as Paranoid Schizophrenic and that he was discharged from Bellevue on March 23, 1964, and transferred to Creedmoor State Hospital, Queens, New York. Mr. WALKER stated that GONGORA was transferred from Bellevue because it had been determined that he was in need of further psychiatric treatment and that Creedmoor State Hospital had more propitious facilities for such treatment.

On April 28, 1964, inquiry at Creedmoor State Hospital, Queens, New York, disclosed that GONGORA is presently confined to the Disturbed Ward, Building S10, and

is expected to remain at Creedmoor for further treatment for probably at least another six months.

It is to be noted that the New York Office of the FBI had previously conducted an investigation concerning PASCUAL ENRIQUE RUEDOLO GONGORA, also known as Pascual Ruedato, and such investigation reflected the following:

A letter addressed to Mr. ROBERT KENNEDY, Washington, D.C., "The House Painted White", postmarked New York 1, New York, dated October 13, 1963, 7:00 p.m., was received by Attorney General ROBERT KENNEDY on October 21, 1963. The return address reads:

"Pascual Ruedato
500 West 14th Street
New York, New York."

The reverse side of the envelope bears the slogan: "Cuba Yes, Yankees No."

"New York, October 18, 1963

"Mr. Robert Kennedy:

"I am tired of asking for my deportation by your brother, the President.

"I will tell you that I do not know how he is capable of protecting such criminals as Rafael Diaz Balart. They should be the most despicable kind of people for you, gentlemen, who are the titled representatives of democracy. But he will fall because of his heroin peddling and all his millions, accumulated with the most horrible crimes in Cuba, will be to no avail. He even set dogs on women. Mr. Tony Varona must remember him because his daughter was one of the victims of the Balart who, today, is living at 18 North East Street and Biscayne, Miami, with the full support of this country, which does not know about this or does not want to know.

"The fact of the matter is that I was harmed in Cuba and in this country by protected people like this Balart, a thief of engraved documents.

"I feel very ill and my greatest desire is to be deported because I am not agreeable to having these people live where they can harm me.

"I hope that in keeping with your dignity and honor you succeed in this as soon as possible. Thus, you will no longer have to hear my voice saying that you stifle the right to decency, that is to say, the right to live where there are no animals like many of those who have settled in this country.

"Batista, 221 17th Street North East, at the corner with Patterson.

"Let them stay here.

"Thank you for my deportation.

"Pascual Ruedato

"P.S. Rumor has it that your brother is caught in the snare of that female bandit and assassin: Ondy (?). It is Mrs. Balart, who is in this country. In Cuba she is known by another name: The Displaced Assassin.

"Pascual Ruedato

"P.S. The sisters of Rolando Masferre and Tavernilla are dead because they were 'famous in crime'.

"Eighteen thousand women killed by dogs for the pleasure of sadistic neurotics, scoundrels and vice addicts.

"Fatherland or death."

250

RAFAEL DIAZ BALART, referred to above, may be identical with the former head of the anti-CASTRO organization in New York City named "The White Rose."

TONY VARONA, mentioned above, may be identical with the TONY VARONA who is a prominent official in the Cuban Revolutionary Council.

On November 12, 1963, ARNOLD FOX, 500 West 14th Street, New York City, advised he is the lessee of 500 West 14th Street, and that he operates a bar and grill on the first floor and rents out the rest of the building consisting of a barbershop on the first floor and 27 rooms upstairs. He stated he has rented room number 6 to one PASCUAL RUEDOLO since October 4, 1963, at $12.00 per week. He stated he had advised the New York City Welfare Department he had a vacant room and that the Welfare Department sent RUEDOLO. He stated that GONGORA's rent is paid by the Department of Welfare. He described GONGORA as white male, about 50 years old, 135 pounds, five feet seven inches tall, gray hair and usually badly in need of a shave. GONGORA speaks Spanish but very little English. FOX advised he had no knowledge of GONGORA's political sentiments and that in his very limited association he appeared sane. He advised he had just hired a new building superintendent but that he would not know GONGORA and that he felt none of the other tenants would know him.

Sources familiar with some phases of Cuban activities in the New York City area were contacted but were unable to furnish any information concerning GONGORA.

Records, Credit Bureau of Greater New York, as furnished to IC RAYMOND DAVID BECKER, on November 19, 1963, were negative concerning GONGORA.

Records, Bureau of Special Services and Bureau of Criminal Identification, New York City Police Department, as furnished to SA AUGUST J. MICEK during November, 1963, were negative concerning GONGORA.

251

On November 22, 1963, a confidential source advised that records of the New York City Department of Welfare, 271 Church Street, New York City, file number HR2268921, reflect that one PASCUAL RUEDOLO GONGORA appeared at the Welfare Department and informed authorities therein that he was undomiciled and unemployed. His residence was given as 500 West 14th Street formerly 23 West 65th Street, 610 West 111th Street, 169 Beach 115th Street, Rockaways, Brooklyn, and 237 West 109th Street, New York City. GONGORA claimed he had palpitations of the heart, headaches, a blood condition and acknowledged a past history of psychiatric care in Cuba and stated he had been arrested on August 25, 1963, on a narcotics offense. He stated he reports to Roosevelt Hospital for a case of syphilis he received in Cuba in 1956.

On November 29, 1963, JOSEPH R. MC HUGH, INS, made available file number A12 322 950 concerning PASCUAL ENRIQUE RUEDOLO Y GONGORA. This file reflected GONGORA was born March 11, 1918, in Cuba, and that he entered the United States at Miami, Florida, on April 28, 1961, as a refugee. He had Cuban passport number 17422. The file contained English translations of letters written in Spanish by GONGORA to the Miami Police Department, INS and the President of the United States, some obscene and all expressing dissatisfaction with the United States and a desire to be returned to Cuba. He was described as five feet seven inches, 140 pounds, blue eyes, gray hair, Social Security Number 129-34-1094 and his FBI number was given as 5923E. He was arrested October 25, 1961, by the 10th Precinct, New York City Police Department for felonious assault (knife) and on February 8, 1962, sentenced to three months in the workhouse. On August 23, 1963, he was arrested for possession of a hypodermic needle and desoxyn, and on September 16, 1963, given six months' suspended sentence. He was arrested on November 14, 1963, for carrying a concealed knife. No disposition shown.

MC HUGH advised that GONGORA had departed the United States at Idlewild Airport on Iberian Airlines, Flight Number 954 at 6:00 p.m., on November 28, 1963, destined for Havana, Cuba, via Madrid, Spain. He stated GONGORA had departed under INS deportation order.

252